

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 19 and 23 will be amended and claims 8, 11-18 and 20-22 will be canceled, leaving claims 1-7, 9, 10, 19 and 23 pending with claims 1 and 19 being independent.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 8, 9, 22 and 23 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 8, 9, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, Action states that the limitation in claim 8 of “at least two directional control devices” is a double recitation of the at least one directional control device in claim 1. In claim 22 the phrase “said base portion” lacks antecedent basis.

Claims 8 and 22 have been canceled and their subject matter added to each of their respective independent claims (i.e., claims 1 and 19). The alleged indefinite phrase for each claim 8 and 22 has been addressed in the amendments to the claims 1 and 19, respectively. Also, in dependent claim 23, the phrase “said base portion” has been amended to avoid any possible indefinite rejection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 4-7, 10, 11, 14-17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,347,796 to Grossman et al.

As noted in the listing of claims, independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 22, respectively, including any intervening claims. Furthermore, as discussed above, Applicants submit that the alleged indefinite phrases from claims 8 and 22 have been addressed and are no longer relevant.

Therefore, amended independent claims 1 and 19 and their respective dependent claims 2-7, 9 and 10 and 23 should be allowable.

Additionally, independent claim 11 and its dependent claims 12-18 have been canceled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Dependent claims 2, 3, 12, 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Grossman patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,435,447 to Weatherford et al.

Applicants submit that since claims 2 and 3 are dependent from independent claim 1, they are allowable for the reasons stated above.

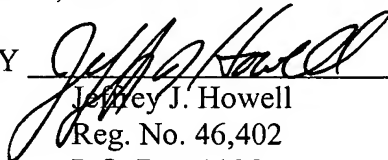
Claims 12, 13 and 18 have been canceled.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is believed the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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